

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT SELECTION AND
ACQUISITION OF A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM****ABSTRACT**

A mobile station is adapted to avoid unusable wireless communications systems during system acquisition. The mobile station includes processing circuitry and a memory storing a preferred roaming list and system avoidance data. The system avoidance data identifies unusable systems and includes corresponding avoidance criteria. The processing circuitry is adapted to select a system from the preferred roaming list in accordance with a predetermined system acquisition procedure. The selected system is skipped if corresponding avoidance criteria is satisfied. If the selected system is usable, the mobile station may attempt to acquire and register with the selected system. The processing circuitry is further adapted to add systems to the system avoidance data in response to a communications failure, and remove systems from the system avoidance data when corresponding avoidance criteria is no longer satisfied. The avoidance criteria may include a time period during which the corresponding system is unusable.